

The State News of the Week in Brief

An Epitome of All the Big and Interesting Events of the Past Few Days in Nebraska.

All Nebraska business concerns that have not complied with government regulations requiring them to take licenses, will be called upon to defend federal proceedings to be instituted against them.

Henry Wessel, hardware merchant of Nebraska, was astonished the other morning on finding the steps of his establishment painted a golden yellow.

Word has reached Fremont that Victor Beaver, former Fremont boy, was killed in action in Flanders, November 12. He was a member of a Canadian regiment.

Several boys out hunting near Louisville found the skeleton of an unidentified man under the floor of an abandoned tool house.

Brainard claims to be one of the most patriotic towns in Nebraska, and it has some justification for the claim.

The live stock branch of the federal board administration has sent out 7,000 letters to Nebraska farmers urging them to buy feeders at the stock yards and the feeding of soft corn.

Al Blender, a bachelor farmer, residing near Benedict, was foully murdered last Wednesday night, supposedly by a farm hand named Shober.

Miss Dorothy Farmer, a 13-year-old farmer's daughter, near Stella, had her own flock of chickens this season, and raised twenty-two cockerels and thirty-seven hens.

COUNTY FOOD ADMINISTRATORS.

Nebraska Food Controller Wattlewatt appoints assistants to look after situation in each county. Women chosen for Hall county. Many prominent men in the list of appointees.

Table listing County, Town, and County Administrator for various Nebraska counties.

Lawyers and business men of Dodge county have volunteered their services to assist registrants in answering the questions propounded by the provost marshal on the questionnaires that will be sent out shortly.

York county citizens claim their county is practically without pro-German sentiment. Before the U. S. entered the war, it is said, there was much sympathy for Germany in the county.

Editor Richel of the Juniata Herald has discontinued the publication of his paper, which has been a chronicle of Adams county events for 32 years.

At Brock, Nemaha county, last week, 330 food conservation pledge cards were signed. There were reported 202 wheatless, 458 meatless and 560 wastelless meals.

According to figures prepared by Secretary Bernecker of the State Board of Equalization, the school tax in Lancaster county is \$189,588.12 more than last year.

Fire, believed to have been of incendiary origin, almost completely destroyed the Nebraska National Guard Armory at Nebraska City.

By defeating North Platte Thanksgiving, York lays claim to the high school football championship of Nebraska for this year.

A farm of 100 acres near North Platte sold for \$150 per acre one day last week.

Several leases for land have been made in Scottsbluff county for the purpose of prospecting for oil.

Voters of Richardson county rejected a proposition to issue \$100,000 bridge bonds at a special election.

The Banner county oil well is down nearly 2,000 feet and is to be drilled several hundred feet deeper.

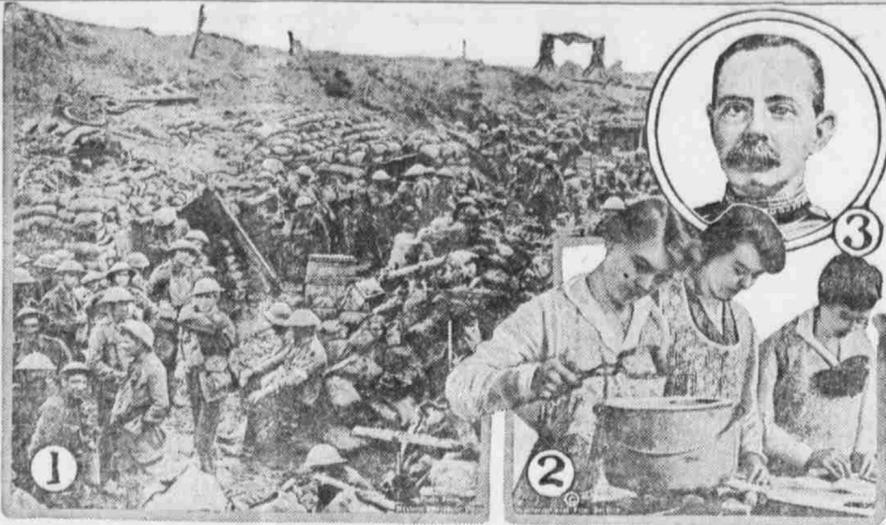
At a donation Red Cross sale held at Orleans the total raised for Red Cross purposes amounted to \$900. All articles were donated and included everything from half a dozen eggs to a yearling mule and two yearling colts.

The Nebraska football team went down to defeat before the Syracuse, N. Y., university eleven Thanksgiving day at Lincoln by the narrow margin of 16 to 9.

The South Platte draft board of appeals has refused agricultural exemptions to 1,062 farmers and granted them to 1,090 others.

Prospecting for oil is being carried on in four counties in Nebraska, namely, Rock, Banner, Frontier and Webster.

Holdrege high school gave its second principal in two months when Principal Ashton C. Love resigned to join the aviation section of the army.



1—Scene at a divisional headquarters of the British during one of the big battles on the west front. 2—Members of an American college girls' trench candle brigade making candles of Gen. Herbert C. O. Plumer, appointed commander of the British forces sent to aid the Italians.

NEWS REVIEW OF THE PAST WEEK

Interallied War Conference in Paris Opens With Russia the Big Topic.

LENINE DEALS WITH BOCHES

Germany Accepts Bolshevik Proposal of Armistice—Signs of Collapse of Radical "Government"—Italian Crisis Considered Over—Supreme War Council for United States.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

The great interallied war conference opened in Paris on Thursday and the world is justified in expecting momentous results from it, though they may not be immediately evident.

Aside from the question of unified control of the war, one of the most important matters considered by the conference, of course, was the Russian situation. This was rapidly moving to a climax, for during the week the representatives of the bolshevik government crossed over to the German side and made their proposition of an armistice on all fronts of the belligerent countries.

The conference in Paris took under consideration the issuance of a "reasoned statement for the guidance and warning of the Russians as to the serious results that are likely to follow if a separate peace is concluded," to quote the conservative language of Lord Robert Cecil. This means nothing less than that the Petrograd radicals, and Russia if they are able to impose their will on the country, will be recognized as enemies of the allied nations.

There are growing indications that, when the froth and spume of the present bolshevik revolution in Russia have blown away, the original revolutionists of last March, men like Mil-yukoff, who have brains and experience as well as ideals, will come to the surface again and regain a control that may save their distracted country from the talons of the Prussian eagle.

The beginning of the end for Lenin was reported to have come on Friday, when, according to dispatches from Petrograd, his cabinet was succeeded by a coalition ministry of advanced Socialists and other factions, with the Bolsheviki in the minority.

Despite the fact that the second and fifth armies last week gave their adherence to the Bolsheviki "government," Lenin and Trotzky have shown no slightest evidence of their ability to rule Russia, and whether or not they be knowingly agents of Germany, their actions are all for the benefit of the central powers. If the armistice they ask for were followed by the kind of peace they advocate, Russia would lie open to Germany as a ripe field for merciless exploitation and the Germans would gain infinitely more than they possibly would lose in western Europe.

The hopefulness in the situation lies far away from Petrograd. A great organization known as the Southeastern union has been formed, embracing the Don territory, most of Little Russia, the lower Volga region and Turkestan. This is the great grain-growing part of Russia, the territory that feeds the west, and steps are being taken to add to the union the corn-producing part of Siberia. In all this territory, rough-speaking, General Kaledines, hetman of the Cossacks, is in control, and, in turn, is controlled by leaders

who have not yielded to the dictation of Lenin and his bolshevikists. Moreover, the immense gold reserve of the Russian empire, which was removed from Petrograd to the Kremlin in 1913, has been taken still further into the interior and is out of the reach of the maximalists. Whether Kaledines and the Cossacks will choose to support the social democrats or will aid in a restoration of the monarchy is not clear. But sane friends of order, democracy and freedom feel that anything would be better than the reign of anarchy and civil war that threatens Russia now.

The soldiers who remain at the front are walling bitterly because of the shortage of food, and there is a fine prospect of hundreds of thousands of these fighting men turning back into their country half-starved and ready to pillage and ravage it without restraint.

Italy's Danger Lessened.

The heroic Italian troops having demonstrated their ability to hold back about four times as many Teutons along the Piave front, the fears of a more extended invasion of Italy and of the capture of Venice are lessening. During the week great numbers of reinforcements arrived from the British and French armies on the west front, many of them having marched eight days through the mountains. They brought with them ample artillery and supplies. Italian reserves in great masses, young, well-equipped and full of spirit, also moved north to relieve those who have been combating the invaders, and in some places the Italians took the offensive. The fighting, especially between the Piave and the Brenta, continued fierce and unabated throughout the week, and the losses on both sides were heavy, but the Austro-Germans made no further gains. Down toward the Adriatic they made repeated attempts to cross the river and the flooded lands in pontoons, but were completely routed by the Italian artillery. As the week closed the situation in Italy was still serious, but improving each day.

Gen. F. B. Maurice, chief director of military operations in the British war office, was especially well satisfied with the week's developments in Italy. From the fact that Germany had not brought up vast reinforcements to follow up the initial success with a decisive blow, he concluded that Germany was unable to send them. It is now time, he declared, to say definitely that the crisis in Italy has passed, this being due entirely to the efforts of the Italian army. "Anglo-French troops are now available in sufficient quantities to satisfy us that the situation is secure," he concluded.

Hard Fighting Around Cambrai.

The war has seen no more desperate fighting than has followed on the heels of General Byng's sensational thrust toward Cambrai. Crown Prince Rupprecht seemed determined not to let that city fall into the hands of the British, or at least to make it a costly prize, and his constantly re-enforced troops were sent against the British in Bourlon wood again and again and in the village of Fontaine, which changed hands several times. Byng's men held on tenaciously and usually had the best of it in the hand-to-hand fighting as well as in the artillery combats, and the tanks continued to play their part. These monsters often cleared the way for the infantry, and in at least one instance, when they were themselves held up by superior forces, the British airmen, flying daringly low, routed the enemy with machine gun fire and permitted the tanks to go on. Altogether, it has been the most spectacular battle of the war, and it has cost the Germans a great many of their best men.

General Byng last week seemed to be endeavoring to break through to the north of Cambrai, a movement that probably would compel the enemy to fall back on a wide front. Cambrai itself seems doomed to destruction.

General Pershing last week sent over his second casualty list. It gave the names of two privates who were killed in the trenches by German artillery fire and of five severely wounded.

U. S. Supreme War Council.

While urgently advising upon our allies more unified action in the prosecution of the war, the administration is not overlooking the need for similar co-ordinated effort at home. On Tuesday a great step toward centralized control of all the country's resources

was taken in the appointment of a superior war council through which all the war activities of the government will be enabled to work together. This council is made up of the members of the council of national defense—Secretaries Baker, Daniels, Lane, Houston, Redfield and Wilson—Secretary McAdoo, Chairman Hurley of the shipping board, Food Administrator Hoover, Fuel Administrator Garfield and Chairman Willard of the war industries board. Director Gifford of the council of national defense will sit with this superior council, and President Wilson will meet with it whenever he thinks it advisable.

The government is making a determined effort to settle the troubles of the railways and its own problems in the matter of transportation, and just now the plan of a railroad pool for all lines east of Chicago is being tried out. If this is not successful, it is predicted, the government may take over the operation of all American railways.

President Wilson proclaimed a new embargo on the importation of many articles that are essentials of munitions of war, without the express permission of the government. This will operate to conserve American tonnage for war purposes and to facilitate the importation of raw materials and other supplies necessary in the manufacture of munitions. This assumption of control over imports, provided for in the embargo act, gives the government a powerful weapon for the economic war on Germany and can be directed also against neutral traders suspected of supplying the central powers with American goods.

President Wilson on Monday approved a recommendation of Mr. Hoover reducing the alcoholic content of beer to 3 per cent and reducing the amount of grain used by brewers to about 70 per cent of the volume hitherto consumed. Prohibition of all brewing, the administration believes, would divert tipplers from the comparatively harmless beer to the consumption of whiskey, brandy and gin, of which there is in the country enough to last several years.

No War on Austria Yet.

Vigorous enforcement of the orders restricting enemy aliens made things rather lively last week for German residents, especially of the large cities. But the hope that the administration would make easier the checking of espionage by having congress declare war on Austria went glimmering. For reasons which could not be made public, President Wilson and his cabinet agreed that no declaration against the dual monarchy should be made unless it commits some further especially hostile acts. The president pointed out the fact that the enemy alien law could be amended to include the subjects of countries allied with Germany, as was done in the trading with the enemy act, and Attorney General Gregory at once began the preparation of such an amendment.

Vatican Replies to Critics.

Unusually bold criticism of the course of the Vatican by a number of papers, and assertions that the pope had been fostering the cause of Austria, had been far from neutral and should be called on to make his position clear, brought forth indignant denial from Cardinal Gasparri, papal secretary of state. Said he: "To say that his holiness favors, or has favored, or will favor an unjust, un-Christian, and mendacious peace is not only false but also absurd. Any propaganda for such a peace, alleged to be conducted at the Vatican's inspiration, especially in certain nations, is the product of pure malice." He asserted that the disruptive propaganda that began to affect the morale of the Italian army could not be laid at the doors of the Vatican, and that "the shoulders on which rests the responsibility for the reverses are well-known, a responsibility which certainly does not touch Catholics, the clergy and least of all the august person of the sovereign pontiff."

His eminence made no reference to the Sinn Fein rebellion in Ireland.

One of the first matters taken up by the interallied conference in Paris was the need of speedy diplomatic action in regard to Switzerland, where German intrigue is imperiling the neutrality of the country and gaining economical domination through control of the Swiss railways. The Swiss federal council is becoming anxious over German military movements on the frontier.

COAL CONSUMERS PUT ON WAR BASIS

PREFERRED LIST ISSUED BY FUEL ADMINISTRATION.

FIFTY MILLION TONS SHORT

First Move by Government to Curtail Non-Essential Industries.—Household Needs Included in Preferential List.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 4.—The government's first move toward curtailing non-essential industries during the war was made when the fuel administration sent to coal producers a preferred list of consumers to serve as a guide in filling orders. The list established the preferential shipment for government orders, railway fuel, household requirements, public utilities, steel plants, coke ovens and munitions plants.

Although no direct order was issued requiring operators to give the list preference, a definite request was made and fuel administration officials believe it would be followed. The priority is asked for a period of thirty days.

"The requests are designed," said Fuel Administrator Garfield, "to insure fulfilling of the requirements of those coal users whose activities are essential to the military and economic efficiency of the nation in the conduct of the war."

To obtain coal for emergency requirements operators were asked to notify the fuel administration immediately of the amounts of their free tonnage. This coal will be used to supply communities that run short unexpectedly.

The preferential lists went to virtually every operator in the country, except in the Rocky Mountain districts, which serve local consumers. More than 5,000 were mailed.

Facing a coal shortage of fifty million tons for the country the fuel administration determined that a radical step was necessary if essential industries and public utilities were to be kept running.

Industries that a list of non-essential industries be prepared to which coal should be denied were rejected by the fuel administrator, who established, instead, the preferential list, believing it less likely to injure the credit of concerns which it is considered certain will suffer.

Burn Negro at Stake.

Dyersburg, Tex., Dec. 4.—Liguen Scott, negro, who attacked a young white woman in this county, November 22, was burned at the stake on the public square here.

Following the arrest of the negro Saturday a trial was arranged and a jury selected. A mob of several thousand was impounded to withhold action until the jury decided his fate. The negro confessed his guilt.

An iron stake was driven into the ground and the negro tied to the stake. He was stripped of his clothes and red-hot irons applied to all parts of his body.

Finally a bonfire was built around the stake until even the bones were consumed. The crowd jeered as the victim writhed and screamed before the flames did their work.

Germans Fail to Dislodge British.

London, Dec. 4.—Official reports from the front declare that the attempt of the Bavarian crown prince, Rupprecht, by an encircling movement to nullify the brilliant advance of the British General Byng toward Cambrai has resulted in complete failure. Although at certain points the Germans pierced the British lines and captured positions, men and guns, they have paid dearly for their enterprise in casualties. The number of dead near La Vacquerie during the course of 12 hours on Saturday was greater than during any similar period of fighting since the war began.

Freed of Murder and Gets Son.

Mincola, N. Y., Dec. 4.—It required only one hour and 43 minutes for a jury in supreme court Saturday to reach a verdict of not guilty in the trial of Mrs. Blanca De Saules for the murder of her divorced husband, John De Saules, former Yale football star and clubman, at his home near Westbury, Long Island, the night of August 3. In the verdict no reference was made to insanity. It was a plea of temporary loss of accountability, which formed the basis of the defendant's case. Following on the heels of the acquittal of Mrs. De Saules, her son, aged 4 1/2 years, was restored by the court to the custody of his mother.

Campaign for Stenographers.

New York, Dec. 4.—Intensive training courses in typewriting and stenography to train women to fill the many vacancies in the government offices and elsewhere will be started throughout the United States. It was announced at a convention of shorthand teachers. The courses will be given daily instead of three times a week, in 10,000 schools and the pupils will be prepared to take the government examination in as short a time as possible, the delegates announced.